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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 27, 1995, at 12 noon.

Senate

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1995

(Legislative day of Monday, September 25, 1995)

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Our Father, You have created us to glorify You and enjoy You forever. When we trust You, You turn our struggles into stepping stones. We know Your promise is true: You will never leave us or forsake us. You give us strength when we are weak, gracious correction when we fail, and undeserved grace when we need it most. You lift us up when we fall and give us new chances when we need hope. And just when we think there is no place to turn You meet us and help us return to You. We say with the psalmist, "Bless the Lord O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not all of His benefits."—Psalm 103:1-2.

Lord, we want our work this day to be an expression of our grateful worship. You have called us to lead this Nation. Fill us with Your spirit. Infinite wisdom, we need Your perspective, plan, and purpose. We must make crucial evaluations and decisive decisions. The future of this Nation is dependent on Your guidance. Thank You for making us wise. In the name of our blessed Lord. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, this morning the leader time has been reserved.

The Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2099, the VA-HUD appropriations bill. Under a previous consent agreement, at 11 o'clock today the Senate will resume debate on the Bumpers space station amendment with a vote to occur on or in relation to that amendment at approximately 2:15 p.m. today.

As a reminder to all Senators, the Senate will recess from the hours of 12:30 to 2:15 today for the weekly policy conference meetings.

Thank you, Mr. President.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 2099, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2099) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Bumpers amendment No. 2776 (to committee amendment on page 158, lines 13-14), to reduce the appropriation for the implementation of the space station program for the purpose of terminating the program.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I ask unanimous consent that I may speak as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered.

DEATH OF BESSIE DELANY

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I note that my colleague, who is managing the VA-HUD bill, which is before the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Senate today, will speak on environmental matters in our legislation. But before he does, I wanted to bring to the Senate's attention the death of someone who really has been an outstanding American citizen.

Bessie Delany died Monday at the age of 104 in her home in Mount Vernon, NY. Many Americans know her as part of the Delany sisters. Dr. Bessie Delany and her sister, Sadie Delany, lived through the most remarkable period in American history, from about the 1880's all the way until now. They saw the end of slavery. They lived through the era where people moved from the South. Bessie Delany was one of the first African-American women to become a physician in the United States. She was the second African-American woman to practice dentistry in New York, having graduated from Columbia University in 1923.

About 5 years ago, she and her sister became famous when they wrote, coauthored with Amy Hill Hearth, a book called "Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years." In April, a play opened on Broadway telling their story.

I read their great book called "Having Our Say," and it is a remarkable tribute of courage, character, and competency.

Both of these women overcame incredible odds to make a substantial contribution to the American community. And overcoming all of the bias related to racism, all the obstacles for which there were very skimpy opportunity structures available to them, both—one went on to be a teacher, and Bessie Delany became, as I said, a physician.

All of America is sorry to see Dr. Bessie Delany move on. We are very sorry about her death. We extend our sympathy to her family. But as a great tribute to her and her remarkable life, I really encourage all who are listening here to go to the library and get this remarkable book, "Having Our Say," because in listening to what the Delanys say, both this remarkable teacher and this remarkable physician have a lot of lessons to teach us and to give us, also, a navigational chart for the healing that needs to go on in our society.

So to Dr. Bessie Delany, wherever she is in God's great glory, we just thank her for what she has done for this country. We express our condolences to her sister Sadie. And as a tribute we urge you read this remarkable book about their lives.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. BOND addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, we are anxiously awaiting colleagues who want to come down and either offer amendments or debate the measures before us. Several of our colleagues have expressed an interest in speaking on the space station. We have a 1½-hour time agreement, equally divided. At least on our side, that time is almost completely used up.

So, if anybody feels the need to speak for the space station—it might also be true for those opposing it—this would be a good time to come. We would like to hear what they have to say. But as we indicated yesterday, the majority leader and the Democratic leader, as well as the rest of us, know we have to get these appropriations bills finished by September 30, and our ability to begin the recess on October 2 depends upon our completing this work. So we are pressed for time. We do invite anybody who has measures or has views on measures that will be on this bill to come down and address them now because this will be the best time to do so.

But since we do have some time, I thought it might be helpful for my colleagues who may be getting all kinds of calls from organizations that are opposed to measures that we put forth in the bill to explain a little bit about what we have done in the EPA section. The National Wildlife Federation has a hotline going out saying there are damaging riders; we are doing all kinds of terrible things to the Environmental Protection Agency. The National Audubon Society says we are crippling the Agency and there is a backdoor attempt to strike out provisions in the EPA laws.

Frankly, that is just not true. The environmental progress in this country has been significant. We have in the last 25 years come a long way toward cleaning up our environment. I am very proud of the progress we have made. I want to see that progress continue.

But I think we have come to the point now where we demand that the progress be on the basis of common sense, of justifiable actions, of using sound science, of not duplicating efforts, and making sure that the dollars we spend on the environment, whether they are appropriated dollars or whether they are dollars that others, State governments, local governments, not-for-profits businesses, and individuals have to pay to comply with the environmental laws are spent properly.

Now, let me go through, for the benefit of my colleagues and those who may be watching, the so-called riders or legislative provisions that are included in this bill. The recommendation of the Senate Appropriations Committee has seven legislative provisions within EPA. All but one of the so-called riders in the House bill have not been included in this measure. The committee in the Senate limited the provisions in our bills to ones that have been included in previous VA-

HUD bills or other legislation or that eliminate duplication or unnecessary spending. Let me tell you about the provisions.

First, we would prohibit the EPA from requiring centralized inspection maintenance facilities in fiscal year 1996. This is the same language that was included in the National Highway System bill, supported by a large number of Senators. It is clear that the provisions for central inspection and maintenance are going to cause tremendous headaches without the benefits that are needed, and we can do it in a less intrusive, bureaucratic way.

Second, this measure, as reported out of the committee, would prohibit the EPA from requiring employers to adopt car-pooling plans in fiscal year 1996. This language is one of the House riders. It is the same language included in the fiscal year 1995 rescission bill. If workers in America want the Federal Government telling them how they can get to work and demanding putting restrictions and requirements on how they go to work, then they should not support this rider. I do not believe, talking to the people in my State, that they want the Federal Government telling them how they get to work in the morning and how they get home in the evening.

Third, we would in the committee recommendation prohibit EPA from regulating radon and several other drinking water contaminants in fiscal year 1996 unless the drinking water law is reauthorized. It is a very important measure pending before the Environment and Public Works Committee to reauthorize the safe drinking water law. I think the provision that we have in this measure is fully consistent with the attempts by the EPA, which itself has been trying to negotiate extensions to court-ordered deadlines for low-priority contaminants. For each of the contaminants in question, the risk is relatively low or the science is not fully supported by science-based rulemakings. This action has been requested by the National Governors' Association, the League of Cities, the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, the American Waterworks Association, the National Association of Water Companies, the National Rural Water Association, and the Natural Water Resources Association.

Frankly, there has been a lot of concern these days about E. coli and cryptosporidium, and these agencies want local water systems to devote their time and their resources to keeping those known, dangerous contaminants out of the water supply. To the extent that they are required to test for and develop means of dealing with other low-priority contaminants where the science may be uncertain, it will take away from their efforts to keep the water supply system clean from these dangerous, well-recognized, well-defined contaminants.

Fourth, we would prohibit EPA from requiring in fiscal year 1996 the use of